

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX.:JTDREYFUSS:MEM

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

IO:WBUFFUM

S/S-O: J. HOGANSON

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R 040541Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158798

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PORG, PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA AND THE UN SECRETARY GENERALSHIP

REF: MEXICO 5820

1. INDICATIONS OF ECHEVERRIA'S DESIRE TO BE SECRETARY
GENERAL OF UN AFTER COMPLETING HIS TERM AS PRESIDENT ARE
COMING MORE INTO THE OPEN NOW. IN ADDITION TO APPROACH
REPORTED REFTEL, AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI, IN SEPARATE
INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH DEPT ASST SEC LUERS AND OFFICERS
OF ARA/MEX HAS ENGAGED IN RATHER OBLIQUE BUT UNMISTAKEABLE
FISHING EXPEDITIONS ON THIS SUBJECT THROUGH ASKING
WHETHER WE THOUGHT THE RUSSIANS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL
WOULD VETO AN ECHEVERRIA CANDIDACY. WE HAVE REFRAINED
FROM MAKING ANY COMMENT ON WHAT HE OBVIOUSLY REALLY WAS
AFTER (ALTHOUGH UNOFFICIALLY) -- WHAT THE U.S. THOUGHT
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OF SUCH A CANDIDACY. HOWEVER, AS YOU HAVE DONE WE VAGUELY

MENTIONED OUR HIGH REGARD FOR ECHEVERRIA AS AN ABLE
AND PRESTIGIOUS LEADER.

2. AT THIS POINT WALDHEIM'S OWN FUTURE INTENTIONS ARE
NOT CLEAR. THEREFORE, IN DISCUSSING THIS QUESTION IN
RESPONSE TO QUERIES FROM MEXICANS OR OTHERS, WE DO NOT

WISH TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF ENDORSING OR REJECTING A
POSSIBLE ECHEVERRIA -- OR ANY OTHER -- CANDIDACY. AS
EMBASSY KNOWS, APPOINTMENT IS BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WHERE
THE VETO IS APPLICABLE.

3. LINE THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN IN DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT
SHOULD BE THAT AT THIS POINT IT IS MUCH TOO EARLY TO TAKE
AN OFFICIAL POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF A CANDIDATE TO
SUCCEED WALDHEIM. HIS TERM IS NOT OVER UNTIL THE END
OF 1976 AND THEREFORE WE WILL HAVE NO CLEAR PICTURE
OF THE OVERALL SITUATION UNTIL SOMETIME NEXT YEAR.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE158798
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JTDREYFUSS:MEM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750232-0765
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750783/aaaacvxf.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 MEXICO 5820
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECHEVERRIA AND THE UN SECRETARY GENERALSHIP
TAGS: EGEN, PORG, PFOR, MX, UN, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS)
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006